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SECRET - EXDIS*SMK*  
SALT TWO  
SESSION I  
A-117MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION  
U.S. SALT DELEGATION  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

DATE: December 19, 1972

TIME: 8:00 - 8:15 p.m.

PLACE: Restaurant du Parc  
des Eaux-Vives, Geneva

SUBJECT: SALT

PARTICIPANTS: US

USSR

Dr. Edward M. Ifft

Mr. P. A. Skoptsov

After an exchange of pleasantries in which Skoptsov offered his congratulations on the flight of Apollo-17, he said he wished to clarify a point or two in the U.S. proposals. He asked whether a heavy bomber was to be considered one launcher, equivalent to an ICBM or SLBM launcher in the aggregate, regardless of its armament. I confirmed that this was correct. Skoptsov then asked what degree of freedom to mix the U.S. was proposing. I explained that the U.S. believes that there should be some freedom to mix, but that we had not yet specified the degree. I recalled that the earlier U.S. position had favored one-way freedom to mix while the Soviets had favored full freedom to mix. I said that the U.S. Delegation would have more to say on this subject in the future. Skoptsov declined to give his views on these subjects, saying merely that his delegation was studying the U.S. proposals.

Skoptsov then said, in a very serious tone of voice, that the U.S. statement of December 18 on FBS had been unfortunate and harmful. He seemed to object not so much to the content as to the tone of the statement. He indicated that his delegation felt it had somehow gone beyond the unwritten ground rules of SALT. I replied that we had not intended to be in any way abusive or undiplomatic. We felt it was necessary to take a strong position on this subject and make clear that we considered that certain proposals the Soviet side had made were completely unrealistic and unacceptable. Skoptsov said that it was fine for the U.S. to express its views on Soviet proposals, but to bear in mind that "the negotiations must go on." He then pointed out that there had been periods when the U.S. was carrying on activities in Vietnam to which the USSR strongly objected, but the Soviet Delegation had kept our negotiations going in spite of this.

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State Department review